

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MILAN 00111 171731Z

60

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INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3881

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

UNCLAS MILAN 0111

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP IT

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECTS - FOREIGN MILITARY SALES -
ELECTRONIC RECONNAISSANCE SYSTEMS FOR THE MRCA

1. DURING CURRENT MTC AVIONICS AND AIRPORT EQUIPMENT EXHIBITION COMSEC WAS VISITED BY CAPTAIN LUCIANO COCCHIARELLA OF THE ITALIAN AIR FORCE. COCCHIARELLA EXPECTS SOONE TO BE PUT IN CHARGE OF PROCUREMENT OF THE ELECTRONIC RECONNAISSANCE SYSTEMS FOR THE JOINT BRITISH, GERMAN AND ITALIAN BUILT MRCA.

2. AS SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT OF THIS TYPE IS NOT FULLY PRODUCED BY MRCA MANUFACTURING COUNTRIES, PROCUREMENT IS OPEN TO THIRD COUNTRIES.

3. COCCHIARELLA WOULD BE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING DOCUMENTATION ON SUCH SOPHISTICATED SENSOR SYSTEMS AS SLAR (SIDE LOOKING AIRBORN RADAR), INFRARED, AND LASER SYSTEMS. COCCHIARELLA ASSURES US HE HAS, OR WILL HAVE, THE NECESSARY CLEARANCES TO HANDLE SUCH DOCUMENTATION ALTHOUGH WE CAN NOT, OF COURSE, VERIFY THIS FROM HERE. PERHAPS ONE OF THE INFO POSTS CAN VERIFY.

4. DOCUMENTATION MAY EVENTUALLY BE SENT TO COCCHIARELLA IN FEBRUARY, C/O NAMMA (PANAVIA), ARABELLASTRASSE 19, MUNICH.

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5. COCCHIARELLA WAS UNABLE GIVE PRECISE VALUE ESTIMATE FOR EVENT-
UAL PURCHASES, BUT HE STATED THAT INASMUCH AS MANY AS A THOUSAND
OF THESE ARICRAFTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE BUILT, THE TOTAL VALUE OF
SUCH EQUIPMENT CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE SEVERAL MILLION DOLLARS.
FINA

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NNN

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Disposition Event:
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